



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 10/821,223 | 04/08/2004 | Paul T. Van Gompel | 659-2246 | 9394 |
| 757 7590 01/05/2007 BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE P.O. BOX 10395 CHICAGO, IL 60610 | | | EXAMINER HAND, MELANIE JO | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 3761 | |

| SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE | MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
|--|------------|---------------|
| 3 MONTHS | 01/05/2007 | PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/821,223 | VAN GOMPEL, PAUL T. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Melanie J. Hand | 3761 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20, 22 and 24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20, 22, 24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20, 22 and 24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-20, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lovison (U.S. Patent No. 4,022,212) in view of Hamilton (U.S. Patent No. 6,911,023).

With respect to **Claim 1**: Lovison teaches a refastenable absorbent garment A comprising: a first body panel 13 having first and second opposite side edges 60; a second body panel 15 having first and second opposite side edges 60, a crotch portion B extending between said first and second body panels, wherein said first body panel 13 has a first terminal crotch edge 14 and said second body panel 15 has a second terminal crotch edge 16 longitudinally spaced from said first terminal crotch edge 14 so as to form a gap therebetween, wherein said crotch

portion B bridges said gap and overlies said first and second terminal crotch edges 14,16 as seen in Fig. 3. ('212, Figs. 3,4, Col. 2, lines 29-49)

Lovison does not teach at least first and second fastener members fixedly secured to and extending outboard from said first and second side edges 60. Hamilton teaches an absorbent article with at least first and second fastener members 65 fixedly secured to and extending outboard from said first and second opposite side edges of said first body panel respectively, wherein each of said first and second fastener members 70 comprises a refastenable portion 72. First and second extension members 61,64 are fixedly secured to and extend outboard from said first and second opposite side edges 20 of the rear waist region, wherein said refastenable portion 72 of said first fastener member 70 releasably engages said first extension member 61 and wherein said refastenable portion 72 of said second fastener member 70 releasably engages said second extension member 64. Hamilton teaches that the extension member configuration provides improved fit and reduced marking of the user's skin ('023, Col. 21, lines 35-39), therefore it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to substitute the fastening means taught by Lovison with the fastening means taught by Hamilton to provide better fit and reduced skin marking. ('023, Col. 4, lines 9-28, Col. 13, lines 61-67, Col. 14, lines 40-60)

With respect to **Claims 2,15**: Hamilton teaches that said refastenable portion 72 comprises a hook material. ('023, Col. 15, lines 16-22)

With respect to **Claims 3,16**: First and second extension portions 61,64 taught by Hamilton comprise a loop material 68 configured to releasably engage said hook material. ('023, Col. 15, lines 57-60)

Art Unit: 3761

With respect to **Claims 4,17**: First and second extension members 61,64 taught by Hamilton have an outboard curved edge. ('023, Fig. 1)

With respect to **Claims 5,18**: First and second extension members 61,64 taught by Hamilton are elasticized. ('023, Col. 14, lines 1-8)

With respect to **Claim 6**: At least a portion of said first and second fastener members 70 taught by Hamilton are elasticized. (Col. 15, lines 1,2)

With respect to **Claim 7**: Hamilton teaches a refastenable absorbent garment 20 comprising a first body panel 36 having first and second opposite side edges 20; a second body panel 38 having first and second opposite side edges 20; a crotch portion 37 extending between said first and second body panels; at least a first fastener member 70 and a second fastener member 70, fixedly secured to and extending outboard from said first and second opposite side edges 20 of said first body panel 36 respectively, wherein each of said first and second fastener members 70 comprises a refastenable portion 72; and first and second extension members 61,64 fixedly secured to and extending outboard from said first and second opposite side edges 20 of said second body panel 38 respectively, wherein said refastenable portion 72 of said first fastener member 70 releasably engages said first extension member 61 and wherein said refastenable portion 72 of said second fastener member 70 releasably engages said second extension member 64 wherein said first and second extension members 61,64 are secured to a bodyside surface of said second body panel member 38. ('023, Col. 4, lines 9-28, Col. 13, lines 61-67, Col. 14, lines 40-60)

Art Unit: 3761

With respect to **Claim 8**: First and second extension members 61,64 are bonded to said first and second opposite side edges 20 of said second body panel 80 respectively. ('023, Col. 11, lines 54-63, Col. 12, lines 58-60)

With respect to **Claim 9**: First and second extension members 61,64 are bonded to said first and second opposite side edges 20 of said second body panel 38. Hamilton does not explicitly teach the mode of bonding, however since Hamilton teaches adhesive for substantially all other fastening mechanisms of the article (e.g. bonding topsheet 24 to backsheet 26) so as to separate them from one another), it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to employ adhesive bonding to bond said first and second extension members 61,64 to said first and second opposite side edges 20. ('023, Col. 5, lines 48-50)

With respect to **Claim 10**: First and second extension members 61,64 are bonded to said first and second opposite side edges 20 of said second body panel 38. Hamilton does not explicitly teach the mode of bonding, however since Hamilton teaches sonic bonding for substantially all other fastening mechanisms of the article, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to employ sonic bonding to bond said first and second extension members 61,64 to said first and second opposite side edges 20. ('023, Col. 5, lines 65-67)

With respect to **Claim 11**: Hamilton teaches a refastenable absorbent garment 20 comprising: a first body panel 36 having first and second opposite side edges 20; a second body panel 38 having first and second opposite side edges 20; a crotch portion 37 extending between said first and second body panels; at least a first fastener member 70 and a second fastener member 70

Art Unit: 3761

fixedly secured to and extending outboard from said first and second opposite side edges 20 of said first body panel 36, wherein said first and second fastener members 70 are bonded to said first and second opposite side edges 20 of said first body panel 36, wherein each of said first and second fastener members 70 comprises a refastenable portion 72; and first and second extension members 61,64 fixedly secured to and extending outboard from said first and second opposite side edges 20 of said second body panel 38 respectively, wherein said refastenable portion 72 of said first fastener member 70 releasably engages said first extension member 61 and wherein said refastenable portion 72 of said second fastener member 70 releasably engages said second extension member 64. ('023, Col. 4, lines 9-28, Col. 13, lines 61-67, Col. 14, lines 40-60)

With respect to **Claim 12**: First and second fastener members 70 each comprise a carrier member supporting said refastenable portion 72. ('023, Fig. 6)

With respect to **Claim 13**: The said carrier member comprises a pair of tabs supporting first and second refastenable portions 72. ('023, Fig. 6)

With respect to **Claim 14**: Lovison teaches a refastenable absorbent garment A comprising: a first body panel 13 having first and second opposite side edges 60; a second body panel 15 having first and second opposite side edges 60, a crotch portion B extending between said first and second body panels, wherein said first body panel 13 has a first terminal crotch edge 14 and said second body panel 15 has a second terminal crotch edge 16 longitudinally spaced from said first terminal crotch edge 14 so as to form a gap therebetween, wherein said crotch

Art Unit: 3761

portion B bridges said gap and overlies said first and second terminal crotch edges 14,16 as seen in Fig. 3. ('212, Figs. 3,4, Col. 2, lines 29-49)

Lovison does not teach at least first and second fastener members fixedly secured to and extending outboard from said first and second side edges 60. Hamilton teaches an absorbent article with at least first and second fastener members 65 fixedly secured to and extending outboard from said first and second opposite side edges of said first body panel respectively, wherein each of said first and second fastener members 70 comprises a carrier portion bonded to said first and second opposite side edges 20 and a refastenable portion 72 supported by said carrier portion. First and second extension members 61,64 are fixedly secured to and extend outboard from said first and second opposite side edges 20 of the rear waist region, wherein said refastenable portion 72 of said first fastener member 70 releasably engages said first extension member 61 and wherein said refastenable portion 72 of said second fastener member 70 releasably engages said second extension member 64. Hamilton teaches that the extension member configuration provides improved fit and reduced marking of the user's skin ('023, Col. 21, lines 35-39), therefore it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to substitute the fastening means taught by Lovison with the fastening means taught by Hamilton to provide better fit and reduced skin marking. ('023, Col. 4, lines 9-28, Col. 13, lines 61-67, Col. 14, lines 40-60)

With respect to **Claim 19**: Hamilton teaches a refastenable absorbent garment 20 comprising a first body panel 36 having first and second opposite side edges 20; a second body panel 38 having first and second opposite side edges 20; a crotch portion 37 extending between said first and second body panels; at least a first fastener member 70 and a second fastener member 70, fixedly secured to and extending outboard from said first and second opposite side edges 20 of

Art Unit: 3761

said first body panel 36 respectively, wherein each of said first and second fastener members 70 comprises a carrier member supporting said refastenable portion 72; and first and second extension members 61,64 fixedly secured to and extending outboard from said first and second opposite side edges 20 of said second body panel 38 respectively, wherein said refastenable portion 72 of said first fastener member 70 releasably engages said first extension member 61 and wherein said refastenable portion 72 of said second fastener member 70 releasably engages said second extension member 64 wherein said first and second extension members 61,64 are secured to a bodyside surface of said second body panel member 38. ('023, Col. 4, lines 9-28, Col. 13, lines 61-67, Col. 14, lines 40-60)

With respect to **Claim 20**: Hamilton teaches a refastenable absorbent garment comprising: a first body panel 36 having first and second opposite side edges 20; a second body panel 38 having first and second opposite side edges 20; a crotch portion 37 extending between said first and second body panels; at least a first fastener member 70 and a second fastener member 70 fixedly secured to and extending outboard from said first and second opposite side edges 20 of said first body panel 36, wherein said first and second fastener members 70 are bonded to said first and second opposite side edges 20 of said first body panel 36, wherein each of said first and second fastener members 70 comprises a carrier member that further comprises a pair of tabs supporting first and second refastenable portions 72; and first and second extension members 61,64 fixedly secured to and extending outboard from said first and second opposite side edges 20 of said second body panel 38 respectively, wherein said refastenable portion 72 of said first fastener member 70 releasably engages said first extension member 61 and wherein said refastenable portion 72 of said second fastener member 70 releasably engages

Art Unit: 3761

said second extension member 64. ('023, Col. 4, lines 9-28, Col. 13, lines 61-67, Col. 14, lines 40-60)

With respect to **Claim 22**: As can be seen in Fig. 8A taught by Hamilton, first and second extension members 61,64 each comprise an inboard terminal edge and an outboard terminal edge, wherein said first and second extension members 61,64 are formed separately from said second body panel 38, and wherein said outboard terminal edges of said first and second extension members 61,64 are laterally spaced outboard from said first and second opposite side edges 20 of said second body panel 38.

With respect to **Claim 24**: First and second extension members 61,64 each comprise an inboard terminal edge and an outboard terminal edge as seen in Fig. 8A taught by Hamilton, wherein said first and second extension members 61,64 are formed separately from said second body panel 38, and wherein said outboard terminal edges of said first and second extension members 61,64 are laterally spaced outboard from said first and second opposite side edges 20 of said second body panel 38 respectively.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melanie J. Hand whose telephone number is 571-272-6464. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 8:00-5:30, alternate Fridays 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tatyana Zalukaeva can be reached on 571-272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3761

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Melanie J Hand
Examiner
Art Unit 3761

MJH



TATYANA ZALUKAEVA
SUPERVISORY PRIMARY EXAMINER

